



PATENT
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : White et al. Art Unit: 2812
Serial No.: 09/082,483 Examiner: Not Assigned
Filed : 5/20/98
Title : MODULAR SUBSTRATE PROCESSING SYSTEM

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination of application Serial No. 09/082,483, please amend it as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) An apparatus for performing a process on a substrate, comprising:
 - a conveyor to support the substrate along a flow path;
 - a substrate transfer mechanism configured and arranged to remove the substrate from and place another substrate on said conveyor; and
 - at least one processing island located adjacent to said flow path, [each] said processing island having a valve for introduction and extraction of the substrate into and out of an interior thereof.
3. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein [each] said processing island includes a load lock chamber and a processing chamber.

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I hereby certify under 37 CFR 1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

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